

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 IOE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-12 AF-10 ARA-11 EA-11 EUR-25 INRE-00 AID-20

SR-02 ORM-03 RSR-01 /173 W

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AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

UNCLAS USUN 1307

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TAGS: SREF, UN, BG, IN, PK

SUBJECT: MUJIB LETTER TO SYG

BD OBSERVER MISSION RELEASED TEXT OF MARCH 29 LETTER

FORM MUJIB TO SYG:

" EXCELLENCY,

DURING YOUR EXCELLENCY' S VISIT TO BANGLADESH LAST
MONTH WE DREW YOUR ATTENTION TO HUMINITARIAN PROBLEMS
WHICH REQUIRE TO BE URGENTLY DEALT WITH AND OUR OWN
CONSISTENT EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS IN RESOLVING THEM.
IN THIS CONTEXT WE REAFFIRMED OUR POSITION THAT ALL
BANGALEES IN PAKISTAN AND ALL PAKISTANIS IN BANGLADESH
MAY IMMEDIATELY BE REPARTIATED WITHOUT PRE- CONDITIONS. IT
CONTINUES TO BE OUR VIEW THAT ACCEPTANCE OF THIS PROPOSAL
WILL OPEN GOOD PROSPECTS FOR RESOLUTION OF ALL OUTSTANDING
HUMINITARIAN PROBLEMS IN THE SUB- CONTINENT.

WE WELCOMED THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS WITH YOU
PROPOSALS FOR REPARTIATION OF WIVES AND CHILDREN OF POW' S
AND ALL CIVILIAN INTERNEES NOW IN INDIA AND WOMEN AND
CHILDREN OF BANGALEE FAMILIES IN PAKISTAN. YOUR EXCELLENCY
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MAY RECALL THAT THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL WAS JOINTLY MADE BY
THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH TO

THE PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE SWISS GOVERNMENT CHANNEL
ON NOVEMBER 20, 1972. THE PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT HAVE NOW
CONVEYED TO US THROUGH THE SWISS GOVERNMENT THAT THEY ARE
PREPARED TO REPATRIATE 15,000 BANGALEES PROVIDED ADEQUATE
TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE. WE HAVE CONVEYED THROUGH
THE SWISS GOVERNMENT OUR ACCEPTANCE OF THE ABOVE PROPOSAL.

AS YOUR EXCELLENCY MAY BE AWARE THE WIVES AND
CHILDREN OF THE POW'S WILL BE REPARTIATED AS ORIGINALLY
STIPULATED BY BANGLADESH AND INDIA THROUGH OVER LAND ROUTE
AT WAGAH BORDER BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN.

ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS NECESSARY TO ARRANGE
TRANSPORT FOR REPATRIATION OF BANGALEE FAMILIES FROM
PAKISTAN BY SEA. AS THE VAST MAJORITY OF PERSONS TO BE
REPATRIATED ARE LOCATED IN KARACHI THERE ARE DISTINCT
LOGISTICAL AND COST ADVANTAGES IN REPATRIATION BY SEA FROM
KARACHI TO CHITTAGONG. IT IS AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND THAT
I REQUEST YOUR EXCELLENCY THAT THE U. N. MAY CONSIDER
TAKING AN INITIATIVE IN SECURING A NEUTRAL SHIP PREFERABLY
UNDER U. N. FLAG TO REPATRIATE 15,000 BANGALEES FROM KARACHI
TO CHITTAGONG.

IN THIS CONTEXT MAY I ALSO REFER TO MY TELEGRAM TO
YOUR EXCELLENCY ON NOVEMBER 27 TH WHEREIN I HAD CONVENED
THE WILLINGNESS OF THE BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT TO REPATRIATE
ALL PAKISTANI NATIONALS NOW IN BANGLADESH AT THE SAME TIME
AS REPARTIATION OF ALL BANGALEES BY PAKISTAN. IF NEUTRAL
SHIPPING CAN BE ARRANGED UNDER U. N. AUSPICES THE SHIP CAN
CARRY FROM BANGLADESH 20,000 PAKISTANIS ON THEIR RETURN
VOYAGE FROM CHITTAGONG TO KARACHI.

A U. N. INITIATIVE AT THIS PRESENT JUNCTURE WILL BE AN
EXTREMELY WELCOME STEP AS CONTINUATION OF YOUR EXCELLENCY'S
GOOD OFFICES IN SOLUTION OF OUTSTANDING HUMANITARIAN
PROBLEMS. I AM PERSONALLY CONVINCED THAT YOUR EXCELLENCY'S
LEADERSHIP IN THIS MATTER WOULD LEAD TO A GENERAL IMPROVEMENT
IN THE CLIMATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN COUNTRIES IN THE
SUB-CONTINENT AND WOULD THEREFORE BE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION
TOWARDS PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE AREA.

PLEASE ACCEPT, EXCELLENCY, THE ASSURANCES OF MY
HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

DACCA: 29 MARCH 1973 (SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN) SD/-
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PRIME MINISTER OF BANGLADESH"

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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